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Serial Number: 10/501,234

Claimed Invention (claim 43).

1. The master router data stored by each routing device indicates whether the respective routing device is a master router or a slave router with respect to each network to which the respective routing device is connected

2. With respect to each network, the master router is a router that is connected to a network that is from among the plurality of networks connected to each routing device and that is nearest to a parent router that assigns the network identification data to identify the networks.

3. Disabling a router function of the first routing device when, in relation to the networks to which the first routing device connects, a number of detected master routers connected to any of the networks to which the first routing device connects is zero or two or more, wherein the number of detected master routers is determined based on acquired master router data received from the routers in response to a request for the master router data, such that a loop path is prevented from forming between the first routing device and the plurality of routing devices

Prior Art References.

1. The current rejection acknowledged that Kanekar fails to teach the underlined portions of above-mentioned items 1-3. The rejection relies on Beatty for teaching these limitations.

2. Beatty is related to parallel execution of a complex task in a computer and is not related to control of a router on a network, as recited in claim 43.

3. Specifically, Beatty teaches that (a) a "master process" is a task on the computer that schedules operations to be performed by a "slave process," (b) the "slave process" is a process that performs the actual operations (see col. 4, lines 13-17).

Differences.

1. Beatty is not related to control of a router on a network, but is merely related to master/slave processes executed on a computer. Beatty is not related to the same endeavor as the invention of claim 43, but only shares similarities in the naming conventions (i.e., "master" and "slave"). Therefore, a person skilled in the art of the claimed invention (i.e., start-up method of a router upon connection of the router to a network) would not arrive at the claimed invention based on Beatty's disclosure of scheduling and executing a complex task on a computer.

2. Beatty merely teaches that the "master process" schedules operations to be executed by the "slave process," and does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned underlined limitations required by claim 43.